

INDEXA



Summer 1997

Issue 39

A non-profit organization for the enhancement of amateur radio, worldwide peace, and friendship
Daily Information Session—14.236 @ 23:30Z

S21XX—DX from Bangladesh

On February 2nd, 1997, a group of German DXers activated Bangladesh with the callsign, S21XX.

It was a long road from the birth of the idea to the DXpedition. Serious planning began in June, 1996, when the operators—Dietmar, DL3DXX; Hannes, DL3NEO; and Joerg, DL8WPX/YB1AQS—met at the HAM-Radio in Friedrichshafen, Germany.

They decided to concentrate on the low bands and operate mainly CW. Based on the best low band propagation, the time required to obtain licenses, and personal plans and circumstances, the team decided to go in February, 1997.

Correspondence relating to QTH, licenses, and other appointments began in June, 1996. Results and good news came slowly during the next seven months but, thanks to the goodwill and assistance of B.A.R.L. officials, the license was guaranteed. By the end of January, shortly before the intended flight to Bangladesh, the group received documents with the single calls S21XZ, S21XY, and S21XX.

Logging the first QSO

The group arrived at the Zia International Airport in Dhaka on the morning of February 2nd, 1997. They cleared Customs and went immediately to the village of Rajendrapur, north of Dhaka. Within a few hours

of arrival in the country, they logged their first QSO at 1435z with JA3REK on 30m. S21XX (the common call of the entire operation) was on the air!

QTH

The QTH, booked in advance, consisted of two bungalows and a wide garden, measuring 120m by 100m. Because the location was remote, the operators relied on tea, coffee, and local food—mainly vegetarian and fresh from the garden.

Operating equipment

Unfortunately, the 3kw diesel generator did not meet the power requirements of three stations. On the second day of operating, the generator was, with difficulty, replaced by a 7kw/14 PS gasoline generator. Now it was possible to maintain continuous operation of three parallel stations.

After a few days, installation of the seven antennas was complete.

Trees were used for tensioning the height of the rods for the wire antennas.

Verticals were used primarily, especially the V80E (Titanex) for 160m, 80m, 40m, and 30m (with matchbox at the footpoint and elevated radials). A beverage was installed for listening on the 160m band.

Propagation

The 160 and 80m bands surprised the team with strong signals from Europe and Japan.

When conditions were favorable to

North America, the operators asked the pile-up to standby so they could work stations from the U.S. west coast and Hawaii. On good nights, east coast stations with weak signals came through the EU pile-up.

The team proudly closed the top band log with 923 QSOs. Remarks on QSLs indicate that many of those were "new ones."

High band operation was no problem. The daily band openings started midday with 15m or 17m. After logging a few stations, S21XX was quickly announced on several packet clusters and the pile-ups were worked off.

The team decided to work the low bands as early and as long as possible.

The total QSO count would have been higher with more high band operation.

Daily routines and local hospitality

The three operators maintained a daily routine. They slept until midday, catching up on lost sleep or sleeping in preparation for the coming night; they watched for band openings; and they performed routine generator maintenance (oil exchange).

Sometimes, they were entertained by unexpected visitors who arrived from Dhaka bearing drinks and lots of questions. There was no other entertainment at that time and place (hi).

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DXCC 2000—A Glimpse at the Future

Extra Help

New Life Members

1997-1998 INDEXA Ballot

Bangladesh.....from page 1

After ten days of radio operation, a film team from the Bangladesh state TV service visited in Rajendrapur and filmed a few scenes of the DXpedition team (setting up antennas, radio operation, and interviews). A few days later, the state television news and a Dhaka newspaper featured stories of the operation.

All the days were sunny with temperatures around 25°C and relatively low humidity. February is the coldest month of the year and the nights were cold at the station table (12-15°C).

The team members did not see much of the country and politely declined invitations to come to Dhaka and stay with friends. The people were hospitable and helpful.

There was no day without operating and the offer of S21XX to the DX community.

One evening the DXpeditioners met with an active group of amateurs in Dhaka who had heard about the DXpedition. Amateur radio has been permitted in S2 since 1992. There are approximately twenty licensed operators in Bangladesh, most with a single-digit suffix. The number of hams is growing steadily.

QRT

Dietmar and Joerg left Rajendrapur on February 14th, 1997, taking the low band equipment with them. Their plan was to meet with two other operators for a DXpedition from P2, Papua New Guinea.

Handling the high band pile-ups, Hannes, as planned, kept S21XX on the air until February 18, 1997. 9V1OK was the last station logged on February 18, 1997, at 0506z. The generator was then switched off, everything was dismantled, and it was time to reach the night flight back to Frankfurt via Dubai/Emirates.

Summary

S21XX logged 12,839 QSOs, representing more than 150 DXCC countries and all continents. QSL cards were printed for S21XX by the end of May and QSL manager, DL3NEO, has been answering requests since the second week of June.

Direct QSL requests are now answered within days. If you still need a

card, QSL via DL3NEO by his '97 Callbook address. All cards received via the bureau will be confirmed 100% and sent monthly to the DL bureau (DARC).

Recognition of the DXpedition by the ARRL-DXCC Manager, K5FUV, is in hand.

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representing more than 150
DXCC countries and all
continents.**

The team members met again at the HAM-Radio in June, 1997. The team concluded that S2 was a good spot. Everything went well and a major part of the success was attributed to official help by friends from B.A.R.L.

The team is grateful to INDEXA for its support and to all who helped them.

Hints of the future DXCC 2000 meets 21st century

To meet its mandate, the DXCC 2000 Committee conferred regularly for the purpose of proposing suggestions to clarify, streamline, and improve the current DXCC program.

The committee has two major concepts to present to the board at its January, 1998, meeting. The first addresses possible changes to the DXCC Countries List Criteria; the second speaks to the DXCC Awards structure.

The following is a sneak preview of portions of the committee's interim report and recommendations. It should be emphasized: no action has been taken on these recommendations and no comments are solicited from the general public at this time.

DXCC COUNTRIES LIST CRITERIA

The committee reviewed the DXCC Country List Criteria and determined that the Point 1, Government section was

unclear and open to many interpretations. Others expressed concern that the ARRL determines what is and is not a country. They feared this could lead to undesirable consequences resulting in actions that are harmful to the amateur radio service. To combat or prevent potential problems the committee created a new mechanism for determining Point 1 countries.

Point 1, Government

For a country to be on the *DXCC List*, by reason of government, it must meet one of three requirements:

1. Be a Member State of the United Nations.
2. Be a member of the IARU.
3. Have an official ITU assigned Call Sign Allotment.

Point 2, Separation by Water

1. The 225 mile requirement is replaced with 350 kilometers. (350 km = 217.52 miles, a reduction of 7.48 miles)
2. The 500 mile requirement is replaced with 800 kilometers. (800 km = 497.2 miles, a reduction of 2.8 miles)
3. Paragraph 2(d) is changed so that the "minimum-size" is defined as, "must consist of two points separated by not less than 100 meters of connected land above the high tide mark, as demonstrated on a chart of sufficient scale. For the purposes of this award, any island less than this size shall not be considered in the application of the water separation rules." (The 10,000 square foot area was replaced with the 100 meter straight line. This will make it easier to determine minimum size.)

Point 3, Separation by another DXCC Country

1. The 75 mile requirement is replaced with 100 km. (100 km = 62.15 miles, a reduction of 12.85 miles)

Point 4, Ineligible Areas

1. No changes proposed.

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DXCC 2000.....from page 2

DXCC AWARDS STRUCTURE

For purposes of the report the new DXCC structure is divided into two major categories:

1. The Mode Awards Program
2. The Band Awards Program

Mode Awards

The Mode Awards Program consists of the five mode awards, with the country level endorsements and honor rolls and the 5BDXCC with its five single band endorsement plates.

In the Mode Awards Program, deleted countries would still count for overall totals but future countries that are withdrawn from the DXCC list would not be added to the deleted list.

Band Awards

The Band Awards Program consists of 10 single band awards with country level endorsements, but NO honor rolls. The bands are 160, 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10, 6 and 2 meters.

The 5BDXCC award continues unchanged. As before, deleted countries would not count for 5BDXCC and its endorsements.

Two new cumulative DXCC awards are being created by using the totals from nine of the single band awards. (160-6 meters)

Deleted and withdrawn countries will not count for the Band Awards Program.

The DXCC 2000 Challenge Award

- One point is awarded for each band country credited on bands 160-6 meters (30 meters not included).
- Appropriate certificates, plaques or trophies, and pins are available at: 1000, 1500, 2000, and 2500 point levels.

The DXCC 2000 Championship Award

This special trophy is awarded to the overall leader of the DXCC 2000 Challenge Award on record as of September 30 of each year. There is no charge for this award and there is a lifetime limit of one per person.

Example: If W4DR wins the Championship in 2000, he is awarded the trophy. If W4DR continues to lead

the pack for the next 5 years, no further trophies are issued. When someone else takes the lead, they will be awarded a trophy. If W4DR retakes the lead, he will not be issued another trophy.

Note: If any new amateur radio bands are obtained in the future, they will be included in the DXCC Mode and Band Awards unless such activity is restricted by IARU or International Radio Regulations.

Special DXCC 2000 Award

A special DXCC 2000 award will be offered in the year 2000. It will be offered for working 100 or more countries in the year 2000. It is non-endorsable and QSL cards are not required. There will be an appropriate fee for this certificate award.

PUBLISHED RECOGNITION FOR THE DXCC PROGRAMS

Annual QST Honor Rolls and Standings

The Mixed, Phone, CW, and RTTY Honor Rolls combine into "The Honor Roll." It will be a single (alphabetically ordered) call sign listing of all who qualify according to the current Honor Roll criteria. A "P, C, and/or R" after the call sign indicates which modes the individual qualifies for. Those who qualify for the Honor Roll and who have ever been at the top spot on the Honor Roll will have their call listed in bold face print. This change is limited to the presentation of the Honor Roll as printed in QST.

The top finishers of DXCC 2000 Challenge Award holders will be listed annually in QST.

Monthly QST Listings

Only new awards issued will be published in the monthly DXCC Listing. This includes the 1000, 1500, 2000, and 2500 point levels in the DXCC 2000 Challenge Award.

Standing changes from endorsements will show in the Annual List.

DXCC Yearbook—Annual List

Call signs will be shown in alphabetical order and grouped by number of current countries. Lifetime totals will be shown parenthetically after the call sign. This is the same as today's Honor Roll listing. The listing will include ALL Honor Roll members and other DXCC members who have been active (made an application) during the (October-September) year.

FUNDING FOR DXCC PROGRAMS

Appropriate changes to the fee structure must be made before the program enhancements are implemented. This is to limit the burden on the remainder (non-DXers) of the ARRL membership.

The committee recommends that DXCC fees should be sufficient to pay up to 90% of the ARRL's direct costs.

—*"DXCC 2000 Committee Interim Report and Recommendations" provided by John C. Kanode, N4MM, Chairman, DXCC 2000 Committee*

New Life Members.....

KC2Q K4GN N9UA

Extra Help Provided By.....

W6VTK	AB4SW	W4LM	WA2VZQ	K4GN	WT4U
K8GG	K8JH	KB7V	N9KVI	N7DV	K4ELK
W6EEN	AA0KS	VE7OJ	EA5YJ	BRS10167	YE8XM
PT2FR	NI6P	K6TIM	KE4HZM	and,	K5DX

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Vice-President	K4MQG			
Secretary-Treasurer	W4UNP			
Directors	1-Year			
	ZL1AMO			
	DJ9ZB			

All terms of office are either 1-, 2-, or 3 years. The 2- and 3-yr. terms are not elected this year.

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